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West African music and dance ensemble to perform in Statesboro

NOVEMBER 1, 2006

Legends of West Africa, a teaching and performance ensemble that includes some of the world's foremost practitioners of traditional West African music and dance, will come to Statesboro for three different performances Nov. 11, 12, and 13.

- On Saturday, Nov. 11, the group will perform at 3 p.m. on the World Stage in Mill Creek Park as part of the International Festival. There is no charge for attendance.
- On Sunday, Nov. 12, the group will perform at 3 p.m. in the Georgia Southern University Performing Arts Center. Cost is \$5 for children 12 and under, \$7 for adults.
- On Monday, Nov. 13, the group will present two school matinees, one at 9:30 a.m. and one at 11:30 a.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Cost is \$5 for students and parents, no charge for teachers. For school groups, a \$100 deposit is required with remainder due prior to the event.

The dynamic performance of Legends of West Africa is rooted in antiquity, but spans time into the modern age. Instruments with origins dating back hundreds of years are paired on stage with their modern relatives. The guitar is played with the n'goni, while the balafon hums its music alongside the bolon. Drums drive the sound and create an atmosphere of anticipation and exhilaration. The artists flip, spin and leap across the stage in traditional costumes performing dances that tell stories of village life in West Africa. The audience feels as if they are observing ancient rituals that have become integrated into modern society.

The ensemble couples the energy, vigor and enthusiasm of its youngest artists with the mastery, grace and experience of its elders. The artistic team includes renowned Master Artist Mamady Keita (Artistic Director), Master Dancer and Cultural Ambassador Moustapha Bangoura (Choreographer), and Managing Directors Laura Rich (Borenya West African Drum and Dance), Mamoudou Conde and Matt Mueller (World Music Productions, Inc.).

To obtain tickets for the Nov. 12 and 13 performances, call the PAC at 912-486-7999.

Seven Nations Series focuses on regionalism in Europe

NOVEMBER 1, 2006

Throughout the fall at Georgia Southern University, a number of lectures, discussions, workshops and concerts are focusing on the seven Celtic nations and the larger topic of regionalism among those nations.

The Seven Nations Series continues on Tuesday, Nov. 7, when Charles Briggs, professor; Charles Crouch and Robert Batchelor, assistant professors; all in the Department of History, present 'Regionalism in Europe: Breaking or Re-making the Nation State?' The lecture and discussion will be held in the College of Information Technology Building, Room 1004, at 4 p.m.

The professors will offer insights into the historical development and current status of Europe's diverse regions. As their presentation occurs during National French Week, they will highlight the French experience in particular.

They will also pay special attention to the impact of the European Union on provincial governance, regional economic development and minority languages.

Admission is free and reservations are not required.

The events are sponsored by the Campus Life Enrichment Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, Department of Communication Arts, Department of Foreign Languages, Department of History, Department of Music, Department of Political Science, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Center for International Studies, Center for Irish Studies, Southern Coastal Humanities Consortium, John Humma Cinema Arts Program, European Union Certificate Program and the Religious Studies Program.

To learn more about the Seven Nations Series, go to <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/irish/celtic/>.

Cultural Book Club Discussion Nov. 15

NOVEMBER 1, 2006

The Multicultural Student Center at Georgia Southern University will host its third Cultural Book Club Discussion on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at noon in Russell Union Room 2044.

“The book club is a way for participants to broaden their cultural scope by building a cultural reading list,” said Consuela Pender, director of the Multicultural Student Center.

The final book club discussion of the semester is being held during International Week. “The Kite Runner” will be presented by Joseph Barjis, assistant professor in the Department of Information Technology. The novel, written by Afghan-American writer Khaled Hosseini, portrays the effect of politics on the people and culture of Afghanistan.

Participants will enjoy free pizza as part of the event.

For more information, contact the Multicultural Student Center at 912-681-5409.

Ball is new chairman of Wildlife Center’s advisory board

NOVEMBER 1, 2006

Statesboro entrepreneur David Ball has been elected chairman of the advisory board for the Center for Wildlife Education and the Lamar Q Ball Jr. Raptor Center at Georgia Southern University.

Ball succeeds Frida Moore of Savannah as the chair of the advisory board, which plays a key role in fundraising efforts for the Wildlife Center.

“David has always been one of our most enthusiastic and generous supporters, so we are delighted that he has agreed to take on this important leadership role,” said Steve Hein, the director of the Wildlife Center.

A native of Atlanta, Ball first came to Statesboro in 1974 as a student at Georgia Southern. In the early 1980s, he opened Archibald’s, which became one of the community’s most popular restaurants.

Ball founded the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County and serves on the Bulloch County Board of Education. He is a member of the Rotary Club and serves on the board of directors for Sea Island Bank.

In 2003, Ball received the Eagle Lifetime Achievement Award from the University's Office of Alumni Relations.

'I've seen a lot of changes in Statesboro over the past 30 years, and the Wildlife Center is one of the best,' Ball said. 'It brings a lot of people to our community and to the Georgia Southern campus, and it's a great educational experience for people of all ages.

'I really believe it's a crown jewel for both Statesboro and the University.'

Occupying five acres in the heart of the Georgia Southern campus, the Wildlife Center opened in 1997. It is designed to support the University's environmental education programs and to provide the region's citizens with an up-close look at native animals and plants.

The Center features a self-guided boardwalk tour that winds through a variety of habitats, including an old-growth forest, a wetlands area and a mountain display that allow visitors to see native raptors in their natural environments.

A 150-seat amphitheater is used for live wildlife programs and flight shows that have proven to be very popular attraction with children. The Center also includes an indoor classroom that is used for educational programs and hands-on activities.

The Raptor Center bears the name of David Ball's father. With the younger Ball at the helm of the advisory board, the Wildlife Center is preparing to break ground in January on an ambitious expansion project.

The new addition will feature a 45-foot high aviary that will house a variety of songbirds. The addition will also include a water fowl pond for ducks and wading birds such as herons and storks, plus a wetlands area that is expected to attract a number of migratory species.

The project is scheduled to be finished in Fall 2007.

'When the expansion is complete,' Ball said, 'we will have as fine a wildlife center as there is anywhere in the southeastern United States.'

The Wildlife Center is located on Forest Drive, just off of U.S. Highway 301. The Center is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. every Monday through Friday, and from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. every Saturday.

For more information, visit <http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/wildlife> or call (912) 681-0831.